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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
and to the special session of the General Assembly
entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development
and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of
strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern
and further actions and initiatives:**

**Enhanced participation of women in development:
an enabling environment for achieving gender equality
and the advancement of women, taking into account,
inter alia, the fields of education, health and work**

**Equal participation of women and men in decision-making
processes at all levels**

Statement submitted by Fédération européenne des femmes actives au foyer, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* E/CN.6/2006/1.



Subject: Enhanced participation of women in development and decision making
Full inclusion of unpaid caregivers in development and decision making at all levels

F.E.F.A.F., Fédération Européenne des Femmes au Foyer, the EU umbrella NGO of national and regional associations representing at-home parents and carers, **MMM**, Mouvement Mondial des Mères, **AFEAS**, Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale and **PARENTS FORUM®** call on the United Nations and National Governments, respectively, to include unremunerated caregivers explicitly and directly in development and decision making at all levels.

The lack of recognition of the human, economic, educational and social value of women's unremunerated work, including unpaid child care and education, the care of elderly and disabled relatives, housework, the production of food, and voluntary work within the community, is an impediment to women's progress and has serious negative implications for equality between men and women.

Those who undertake unpaid work as their primary occupation are mostly women and are underrepresented in international, national and local decision-making bodies.

F.E.F.A.F., **MMM**, **AFEAS** and **PARENTS FORUM®** ask that statistics be collected on unpaid work and unpaid workers as a priority so that:

1. access to human, economic and social rights based on all work, remunerated or otherwise, is ensured;
2. development includes unpaid caregivers explicitly at all levels; and
3. representation on international, national and local decision-making bodies is made as open to unpaid workers as it is to paid workers.

There can be no clear planning or cost-benefit analysis for the care of children, elderly and disabled without **reliable data** on **all types** of care: community-based care, institutional care **AND** unremunerated family-based work carried out within the family.

Therefore **F.E.F.A.F.**, **MMM**, **AFEAS** AND **PARENTS FORUM®** request **the implementation of § 11 and 14 (CEDAW) and 165g, 206 (f, g, o, p) and 209 (PfA Beijing)**

- specifically referring to the collection of data on
 - * the economic value of unremunerated family-based work for the benefit of dependent individuals
 - * the impact of national and community policies on the basic unit of the family and all its members, notably in the domain of the elimination of discrimination, the struggle against domestic violence, the risk of poverty of female heads of households, and pensions policies for unremunerated parents and carers
- methods of data collection on unremunerated work should be internationalised and include:
 - * headings in the census and all relevant statistics, including the UN Census 2010 (population and housing) round, for unremunerated work and workers, unremunerated agricultural and food production; unremunerated childcare, eldercare and care of the disabled; unremunerated community and NGO support work
 - * parallel GDP accounts for unremunerated agricultural, family caring and voluntary work
 - * gender- and age-disaggregated information on unremunerated workers
- the recognition of unremunerated work as an emerging issue from the Beijing PfA process